

CITY OF YORK COUNCIL

Resolutions and proceedings of the Meeting of the City of York Council held in on Thursday, 25th January, 2007, starting at 6.30 pm

Present: The Lord Mayor (Councillor Janet Hopton) in the Chair, and the following Councillors:

ACOMB WARD

Horton
Simpson-Laing

BISHOPTHORPE WARD

Livesley

CLIFTON WARD

King
Scott

DERWENT WARD

Greenwood

DRINGHOUSES & WOODTHORPE WARD

Reid

FISHERGATE WARD

D'Agorne
Hill

FULFORD WARD

GUILDHALL WARD

Looker
B Watson

HAXBY & WIGGINTON WARD

Hall
Hogg
R Watson

HESLINGTON WARD

Jamieson-Ball

HEWORTH WARD

Blanchard
Kind
Potter

HEWORTH WITHOUT WARD

Lancelott

HOLGATE WARD

Bartlett
Fairclough
Nimmo

HULL ROAD WARD

Smallwood
Wilde

HUNTINGTON & NEW EARSWICK WARD

MICKLEGATE WARD

Hyman
Orrell
Runciman

Evans
Fraser
Merrett

OSBALDWICK WARD

RURAL WEST YORK WARD

Morley

Bradley
Macdonald

SKELTON, RAWCLIFFE & CLIFTON
WITHOUT WARD

STRENSALL WARD

Moore
I Waudby

Cuthbertson
Kirk

WESTFIELD WARD

WHELDRAKE WARD

Steve Galloway
Sue Galloway
Waller

Vassie

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Holvey, Jones, Sunderland and M Waudby

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

44. The Chair invited Members to declare at this point any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in the business on the agenda. The following interests were declared:
- Cllr Fraser – a personal, non prejudicial interest in agenda item 6(iv) (Notices of Motion – North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust), as a retired member of UNISON;
 - Cllr Kind - a personal, non prejudicial interest in agenda item 7 (Report of Executive Leader and Executive Recommendations), in relation to Executive Minute 131, as a beneficiary of the Local Government Pension Scheme;
 - Cllr Evans - a personal, non prejudicial interest in agenda item 7 (Report of Executive Leader and Executive Recommendations), in relation to Executive Minute 131, as a beneficiary of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

MINUTES

45. The minutes of the Special and Ordinary meetings of Council held on 30th November 2006 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Lord Mayor, subject to the addition of Cllr Scott's name to the list of Members present at the Ordinary meeting.

CIVIC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND LORD MAYOR ELECT

46. The Lord Mayor announced the receipt of a seal that had been presented to the Council as a gift from the Merchant Adventurers. She went on to provide details of events planned to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of York's twinning with Munster and of two fundraising events for the Lord Mayor's charities – a Valentine's Ball on the 10th February and a Fashion Show on the 29th March. She then announced the launch of the York Design Award, which was intended to promote excellence in contemporary architecture in the City. Further details of the criteria for the Award would be circulated to Members.

The Lord Mayor invited Cllr Steve Galloway to nominate the Lord Mayor Elect for the Municipal Year 2007/08. Cllr Galloway nominated, and Cllr Waller seconded, Cllr Irene Waudby as the Lord Mayor Elect and this nomination was unanimously agreed. Cllr Waudby replied that she would be honoured to accept this office for the second time and that she would nominate her Sheriff for the year at a future meeting of Council.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

47. The Lord Mayor reported that there had been no registrations to

speaking at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

PETITIONS

48. The following petitions were presented by Members under Standing Order 7:
- (i) A petition presented by Cllr Simpson-Laing on behalf of local residents seeking improvements to the area around Plantation Shops, Boroughbridge Road.
 - (ii) A petition presented by Cllr Horton on behalf of residents living near 17 Almsford Road, Acomb, expressing concern about the derelict state of this empty property and vandalism on the site.
 - (iii) A petition presented by Cllr Potter on behalf of parents, governors and staff at Tang Hall Primary School, regarding the resurfacing of the pavement outside the school, on Sixth Avenue.
 - (iv) A petition presented by Cllr Bradley on behalf of parents of pupils at St Mary's School, Askham Richard, calling for seat belts to be fitted to the school bus.
 - (v) A petition presented by Cllr Jamieson-Ball on behalf of residents of Heslington and Badger Hill, regarding the impact of student housing on communities.

RESOLVED: That the above petitions be referred to the Executive or appropriate committee.

NOTICES OF MOTION

49. In accordance with Standing Order 11, five notices of motion had been received:

(i) The Housing Situation in York

It was moved by Cllr Horton and seconded by Cllr Simpson-Laing that:

"This Council notes that:

- There is a housing crisis in the City, as evidenced by the draft Fordham Housing Market Assessment, showing the vast majority of newly formed households unable to afford either house purchase with a mortgage or private sector rents (on the normal affordability criterion);
- The current Liberal Democrat support is for a lower regional

housing allocation for York that can only exacerbate the York house price premium, as supply will be reduced by a third compared to the house building rates in York over the last six years;

- Many families have been forced out of the City due to rising house prices;
- Those people that do stay in the City, particularly those on low incomes, often have to live in poorer quality, overcrowded housing;
- Living in overcrowded residences can lead to poor mental and physical health.

This Council welcomes the Government's Barker report, about providing new housing to meet projected need, and calls upon the Executive Member to work with the Government and the Regional Assembly to increase the supply of affordable family housing in York."

Cllr Reid then moved, and Cllr Greenwood, seconded, an amendment to the above motion, as follows:

"In the first paragraph:

- delete '*City, as evidenced by*' in the first line of the first bullet point and replace with '*UK, affecting many residents in York*'.
- delete all after "Assessment" in the second line of the first bullet point, replace with '*contains vital data on housing problems in York, which will be fully utilised to inform the development of the LDF*', and transfer this whole sentence into a new bullet point;
- delete all after '*The*' in the first line of the second (now third) bullet point and replace with '*housing target in the local plan is for 675 new homes per annum and the proposal in the draft RSS is for 640 homes per annum*';
- delete all after '*families*' in the third (now fourth) bullet point and replace with '*across the UK and in York struggle to afford housing*';
- delete the whole of the fourth (now fifth) bullet point and replace with '*The housing situation of residents, particularly those on low incomes, would be improved by a relaxation of government rules on spending the receipts from council house sales, and a fairer social housing grant for York*';
- after '*health*' in the fifth (now sixth) bullet point, add '*and by being enabled by government to spend more of the income generated by York tenants on social housing in York, overcrowding could be better tackled, with the health benefits that would ensue*';
- insert the following additional bullet points (nos. 7, 8 and 9):
 - '- *York is a leader in the amount of affordable housing that it has provided without the use of housing subsidy*;
 - *The affordable homes requirement has been increased from 25% to 50% on all developments exceeding 15 homes, and an affordable homes policy for villages and rural areas has been introduced*;
 - *2,592 new homes, of which 518 were affordable, were built in York between 2003 and 2006*';
- replace all the bullet points with numbers.

In the second paragraph:

Delete all after 'Barker report' and replace with:

'as a basis for discussion, and calls upon the government to:

- 1. Allow City of York Council to retain and invest in social housing the £27m the government intends to take from York tenants' payments over the next four years;*
- 2. Increase York's social housing grant, so housing associations have more money to go into partnership with housing developers;*
- 3. Relax the rule that allows councils to spend only a quarter of their receipts from council house sales in new housing investment;*
- 4. Extend the homebuy-plus pilot in the York "golden triangle" into a permanent scheme for low cost house sales;*
- 5. Introduce the fourth option for council housing, supported on three occasions by the Labour Party conference;*
- 6. Give Local Authorities more powers to bring back into use empty (privately owned) homes and other property which could be converted into residential accommodation."*

On being put to the vote, the amendment was declared CARRIED.

The motion, as amended, now read as follows:

"This Council notes that:

1. There is a housing crisis in the UK, affecting many residents in York;
2. The Draft Fordham HMA contains much vital data about housing problems in York, which will be fully utilised to inform the development of the LDF;
3. The housing target in the Local Plan is currently for 675 new homes per annum and the proposal in the draft RSS is for 640 new homes per annum;
4. Many families across the UK and in York struggle to afford housing;
5. The housing situation of residents, particularly those on low incomes, would be improved by a relaxation of government rules on spending the receipts from council house sales, and a fairer social housing grant for York;
6. Living in over-crowded residences can lead to poor mental and physical health, and that by being enabled by government to spend more of the income generated by York tenants on social housing in York, overcrowding could be better tackled, with the health benefits that would ensue;
7. York is a leader in the amount of affordable housing that it has provided without the use of housing subsidy;
8. The affordable homes requirement has been increased from 25% to 50% on all developments exceeding 15 homes, and an affordable homes policy for villages and rural areas has been introduced;
9. 2,592 new homes, of which 518 were affordable, were built in York between 2003 and 2006.

This Council notes the Barker Report as a basis for discussion, and calls upon the government to:

1. Allow City of York Council to retain and invest in social housing the £27m the government intends to take from York tenants' payments over the next four years;
2. Increase York's social housing grant, so housing associations have more money to go into partnership with housing developers;
3. Relax the rule that allows councils to spend only a quarter of their receipts from council house sales in the new housing investment;
4. Extend the homebuy-plus pilot in the York 'golden triangle' into a permanent scheme for low cost house sales;
5. Introduce the fourth option for council housing, supported on three occasions by the Labour Party conference;
6. Give local authorities more powers to bring back into use empty (privately owned) homes and other property which could be converted into residential accommodation."

The amended motion was put to the vote and declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion, as amended, be approved.

(ii) York Environment Forum

It was moved by Cllr Potter and seconded by Cllr Simpson-Laing that:

"Council notes with regret that the Environment Forum is no longer represented on the Local Strategic Partnership Board, leaving the large environmental voluntary sector with no direct input into the 'Without Walls' vision and forthcoming review of the community strategy.

Council believes that this situation does not properly reflect how important environmental issues are to the City and its residents.

Council requests the 'Without Walls' Board to ensure that the Environment Forum are allocated a formal place on the LSP Board and mandates the Council's nominees on the Board to support this."

Cllr D'Agorne then moved, and Cllr Hill seconded, an amendment to the above motion, as follows:

"Add at the end:

'Council recognises the continuing value of the Environment Forum in engaging a broad range of voluntary sector organisations in the Community Strategy and other local and regional consultations such as development of the LDF. Council further notes the intention of the Local Agenda 21 group to wind up in favour of an Environment Partnership that will contribute to the work of the Without Walls Partnership. Council urges officers to urgently move this process

forward to ensure that this new body has a central part to play alongside the work of the Environment Forum in keeping sustainability at the heart of implementation of the Local Area Agreement.”

On being put to the vote, the amendment was declared LOST.

The original motion was then put to the vote and was declared LOST and it was

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion not be approved.

(iii) Production of Foie Gras

It was moved by Cllr Blanchard and seconded by Cllr Hill that:

“Council notes that:

- To produce foie gras, at just 12 weeks old ducks and geese are restrained and grain is forced down the throat through a tube or pipe, a process that often results in physical injury;
- They are forcibly fed the equivalent to an adult human eating 1-28 lbs (7-13 kg) of spaghetti a day; and, after two or three weeks, when they are ready for slaughter, their livers will have swollen to about ten times normal size. The swollen liver expands the abdomen and can make movement and breathing difficult, as well as causing other health problems;
- Most ducks are kept in wire cages so small they have no room to turn around or stretch their wings, and their feet are often injured by the wire floor;
- Many die before the force feeding cycle ends, and the mortality rate for ducks raised on foie gras farms is overwhelmingly the highest in the industry;
- The force-feeding of geese is already outlawed in Poland, Denmark, Germany, Norway and Israel.

Council believes that:

- This intolerably cruel and painful practice is unnecessary and should end;
- The city of Chicago, USA, has shown tremendous compassionate leadership in its brave decision to ban foie gras in its shops and restaurants;
- The torture of small innocent animals should not be a matter of personal dietary choice.

Council resolves to:

- Instruct the Chief Executive to write to Ben Bradshaw MP, Minister of State responsible for Animal Welfare, informing him of this motion and asking for the production and sale of foie gras to be banned in the UK;
- Do as much as reasonably possible to discourage or prohibit the sale of foie gras within the authority area, whether in shops or restaurants.

Cllr Steve Galloway then moved, and Councillor Waller seconded,

under Standing Order 11, that the motion stand referred for the preparation of an Officer report and subsequent consideration by the Executive, without substantive debate at this meeting.

That was put to the vote and was declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be referred for the preparation of an Officer report and subsequent consideration by the Executive.

(iv) North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust

It was moved by Cllr Kirk and seconded by Cllr Sue Galloway that:

“City of York Council calls on the Secretary of State for Health to write off the historic debt that the new North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust inherited from its predecessor Trusts.”

On being put to the vote, the motion was declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be approved.

(v) The Council's Achievements

It was moved by Cllr Steve Galloway and seconded by Cllr Waller that:

“Council notes the major achievements of Members and staff in providing good quality public services, and improved value for money, since May 2003.

In particular, Council highlights:

1. The success of the York Pride and the Safe City campaigns, which have resulted in a cleaner and greener City and reducing crime levels;
2. Continuing low Council Tax levels, with York residents now paying an average of £112 per annum less for services than similar councils elsewhere, while the number of public service quality indicators, achieving above the national performance, has increased to 63%;
3. The opening of the excellent household waste recycling centre at Hazel Court and the dramatic increase in recycling rates in the City;
4. The opening of the Eco Depot and the contribution that it and other initiatives are making to establishing a truly sustainable City;
5. The opening of several new schools and the sustained improvement in exam results seen since 2003;
6. The record numbers using teenagers' leisure facilities, including the innovative “Schools Out” programme and the new mobile play and sport buses;
7. That social services customers in York continue to enjoy much

easier access to Council care services than in neighbouring areas and that many Social Services buildings have been modernised during the last 4 years;

8. The reduction in the housing waiting list and the success of the housing modernisation programme, which is on schedule to reach 'decent homes' standards by central government deadlines;
9. The best performing Park and Ride service in the country, with 3 million passengers expected to use the service this year and – against national trends – the substantial growth in the use of public transport in the City;
10. The impact of what has been the largest ever footpath and road resurfacing programme ever seen in the City.

Council remains confident that the City will be an increasingly attractive place in which to live, work and play during the forthcoming decades and looks forward to working with residents and partners to sustain and build on the successes of recent years.”

After extensive debate, a motion to move to the vote was put, seconded and carried. On then being put to the vote, the motion was declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be approved.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE LEADER AND EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

50. A written report was received from the Leader, Cllr Steve Galloway, on the work of the Executive. He then moved, and Cllr Waller seconded, those minutes requiring confirmation from:

- a) the Executive meetings held on 19 December 2006 and 16 January 2007, namely:
 - Minute 131 – Local Government Scheme: Scheme Changes and Local Discretions
 - Minute 143 – Amendments to the Council Constitution

and

- b) the meeting of the Executive Member for Leisure and Culture and Advisory Panel held on 16 January 2007, namely:
 - Minute 29 – Library Service Restructure.

The motion was put to the vote and was declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: That the above minutes, and the recommendations of the Executive and the Executive Member for Leisure and Culture, be approved.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER

51. A written report was received from Cllr Sue Galloway, the Executive Member for Adult Social Services. Cllr Galloway then responded to a series of registered and relevant supplementary questions put by Members in accordance with Standing Orders, as follows and in accordance with the list circulated around the Council Chamber, as follows:
- (i) **From Cllr Fraser:**
“In the light of the various changes to the Homecare Service agreed by the Executive Member for Adult Social Services and implemented over recent months, namely:
- The more rigorous application of the current eligibility criteria
 - The introduction of a waiting list for those assessed as requiring the service
 - The withdrawal of the two week waiver of charges for the service following hospital discharge
 - The transfer of long-term users of the service to the recently established locality based private sector provision
- can she outline the impact of these changes on the services provided, including the take-up of the service by users ?”
- (ii) **From Cllr Scott:**
“What effect has the changeover from Meals on Wheels to the current frozen meals provision, resulting from the implementation of the reorganised services referred to in the Executive Member’ s report, had on the take-up of meals by customers?”
- (iii) **From Cllr Horton:**
“Could the Executive Member for Adult Social Services account for the difficulties which arose for customers of the Homecare Service on the transition of long-term users of the Service to the recently established locality based private sector provision and how was adequate consultation with service users and their carers and the necessary sensitivity in implementing the transfer ensured ?”
- (iv) **From Cllr Potter:**
“Does the Executive Member for Adult Social Services accept that the reported statement by the Council Leader last August 2006 in The Press, that his administration was considering restricting access to care (as a result of the implementation of the reorganised services referred to in the Executive Member’ s report), caused widespread concern amongst users of these services and can she outline her policy in this respect and guarantee to maintain the existing level of application of eligibility criteria for access to care ?”

**QUESTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBERS
RECEIVED UNDER STANDING ORDER 10(C)**

52. In accordance with Standing Order 10(c)(i), the following questions were put and responses given:

(i) To the Executive Leader, from Cllr Hyman:

“Would the Executive Leader confirm the % increase in Council implemented between 1999 and 2003 and contrast that with present administration’s performance?”

The Executive Leader replied:

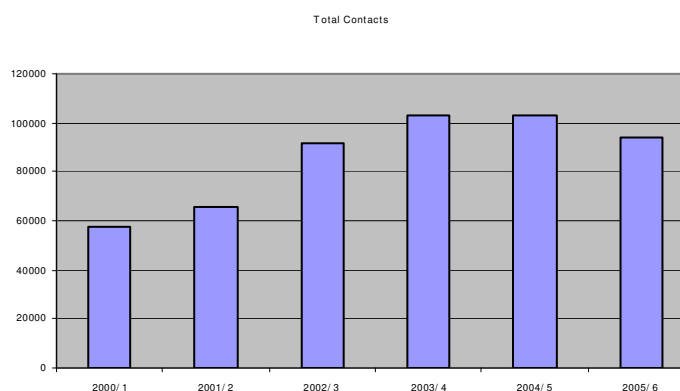
	<u>Band D</u>	<u>£ Rise</u>	<u>% Rise</u>
	£ pa		
1996/97 First year of Unitary Council	528.90		
1997/98	552.44		4.5%
1998/99	620.91		12.4%
1999/00	639.23		3.0%
2000/01	687.16	47.93	7.50%
2001/02	728.06	40.90	5.95%
2002/03	778.16	50.10	6.88%
2003/04	824.62	46.46	5.97%
Increase over Period =	824.62 -	639.23 =	£185.39 (29.00%)
2003/04 Indicative~	782.12		
2004/05	848.75	66.63	8.52%
2005/06	890.81	42.06	4.96%
2006/07	939.77	48.96	5.50%
2007/08 *	982.06	42.29	4.50%
Increase over Period =	982.06 -	782.12 =	£199.94 (25.56%)
* Provisional			
~Figures adjusted for introduction of separate Fire precept			

“Thus the increase in Council Tax has slowed during the course of the present administration compared to the last.”

(ii) To the Executive Leader, from Cllr Hyman:

“Would the Executive Leader comment on the adequacy of job advisory services in the City and in particular detail the work undertaken by Future Prospects during the year?”

The Executive Leader replied:



“For adults, the main statutory provider of job advice is JobCentre Plus, and I cannot comment on the adequacy of their service. However, they are also the provider of various unemployment benefits and are often charged with moving people off benefits rather than providing impartial advice on employment. Future Prospects provides advice which is free and impartial with the addition of extra support in the form of benefits advice and what are called “better off calculations” to enable clients to understand the connection between benefits and wages. As the graph demonstrates, the total number of cases addressed by Future Prospects over the last 3 years represents an increase compared to previous years. Future Prospects has been particularly successful in supplementing its council grant with additional earned income which has allowed it to expand its activities to meet demand.”

(iii) To the Executive Leader, from Cllr Holvey:

“Would the Leader agree to ask – now that capacity problems at the monitoring suite at the police station have been resolved – for a report on the options for modernisation and extension of CCTV coverage in the City to be prepared and would he say what obstacles there could be to the extension of the service into suburban shopping areas?”

The Executive Leader replied:

“I have asked officers to look into the possibility of extending and modernising the City centre CCTV network taking advantage of new technologies (the so called WiFi/Mesh system). It is possible that this would prove to be a project which could be resourced from the Venture Fund. Provision has been made in the draft Council budget for a trial extension of the CCTV system to one of the suburbs – probably to a shopping area with a proven record of anti social behaviour. Although use of hi definition technologies would be very

able to provide at least a basic system which will assist Police operations in the area.”

(iv) To the Executive Leader, from Cllr Holvey:

“Would the Executive Leader indicate what options for funding the government backed Waste and Highways PFI projects he is considering? Would he say what the consequences would be if either of these projects did not go ahead?”

The Executive Leader replied:

“The Council's estimated costs are very dependant upon the amount of biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) which is landfilled. Because of recent highly successful recycling initiatives the difference between budgets and likely costs is expected to decrease (officers are currently revising costs) compared to the last published figures.

If the Council does not undertake the Waste PFI procurement the estimated costs to the Council would be much higher - £195M - over the life of the project (as shown in the Executive report to September 06). Members would therefore need to set aside additional amounts in the budget to fund this way forward.

The level of Landfill Tax that has been paid to the central government:

<i>2006/07 (£21 per tonne)</i>	<i>£1,365k (est)</i>
<i>2005/05 (£18 per tonne)</i>	<i>£1,333k</i>
<i>2004/05 (£15 per tonne)</i>	<i>£1,241k</i>

These exclude Commercial Waste tonnages which are funded from income (£200k to £240k per annum)

We have received some grants from government to relieve spending pressures on Waste these have totaled:

<i>2006/07</i>	<i>£407k</i>
<i>2005/06</i>	<i>£260k</i>
<i>2004/05</i>	<i>£437k (included £350k for Hazel Court)</i>

To fund the Waste PFI project my expectation is that we will need to have rebated all of the Landfill Tax which we currently pay to central government.

As far as the Highways PFI is concerned, we have submitted an Expression of Interest to the Government in September of last year to become a pathfinder authority for highway maintenance PFI project.

That project would see an additional £500m of investment being made in the council's roads, footways, street lights, drainage and bridges over a 25 year period. This would fund a dramatic improvement in highways standards raising them to amongst the best in the world.

The majority of the funding would come from the government in the form of "credits" that are, in effect, an annual grant to the council.

The remaining funding would be met from the £8m revenue and capital funding the council already spends each year on its roads and footways.

There is a requirement for a further £0.5m/annum of additional funding that was identified in the report to the Urgency committee. My expectation is that this funding will come from the economies we will see as the pay protection for job evaluation unwinds and/or from the benefits of the reduced costs that we will incur when we move to the New City Hall offices.

Despite repeated requests DfT have yet to come to a decision about which local authorities they will invite to prepare an outline business case."

(v) To the Executive Member for Corporate Services, from Cllr Moore:

"Would the Executive Member comment on claims that the costs of the new City Hall offices which are to be built for the Council are 'spiralling' and would he detail what the financial implications for the project are expected to be for Council Taxpayers over the next 20 years?"

The Executive Member replied:

"Costs are not spiraling despite Labour claims. A full due diligence check of the estimated cost and available funding was carried out in the summer of 2006 and the capital cost of the project was reported to the Executive on 10th October 2006 as £35.71M. Over the 30 year project life, the cash saving generated by the project will be in excess of £30M. The Net Present Value of that saving is £3.7M at today's prices when compared to the existing budget."

(vi) To the Executive Member for Corporate Services, from Cllr Moore:

"Would the Executive Member indicate how Council Tax collection rates are progressing and contrast this with performance in previous years and with other authorities?"

The Executive Member replied:

"When the new administration took office in 2003, the "in year" collection rate for council tax for the year 2002/03 had been 97.4% making York 171 out of 354 councils in the country and a top quartile unitary at number 11. This performance can only be achieved by following up everyone who doesn't pay regularly. Members will recall that in the summer of 2003 the SX3 system which is used to manage Council Tax collection was commissioned and thanks to the lack of project

management by the previous administration the result was very disruptive to the services.

The collection rate in York for 2003/04 fell to 93.5% putting us at number 327 in the country and 41st Unitary out of 47. With a significant amount of hard work by a dedicated band of staff we have slowly climbed back:

2004/05 95.1% collected, position 308 in the country and 34th unitary;

2005/06 96.1% collected, position 284 in the country and 32nd unitary;

Projected position this year end:

2006/07 97.1% collected, position 222 in the country and 18th unitary.

I look forward to further improvement over the next few years adding at least another 1% to our figure. It must be remembered that collection of earlier years continues after year end with only a small amount finally having to be written off as uncollectible."

(vii) To the Executive Member for Corporate Services, from Cllr Hill:

"In view of the tight restrictions to be placed upon the use of alternative commercial accommodation at Clifton Moor, what does the future hold for the Parkside Centre's commercial tenants?"

The Executive Member replied:

"There are currently 12 tenants at Parkside. The York Eco Business Centre at Clifton Moor is planned for completion in December this year. Six of the existing tenants run businesses which are suitable to relocate at Clifton Moor, but six can not go there because their operations generate noise, fumes and dust. Some of the latter six will be able to move to premises at 35 Hospital Fields Road but some will not.

The council has encouraged those tenants who can not be accommodated at either of the above sites, to register with the Inward Investment Board, york-england.com. The Inward Investment Board keeps an up to date register of all available sites and, if asked, will assist firms to find suitable premises when they are facing relocation."

(viii) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Simpson-Laing:

"Can the Executive Member explain the present situation regarding the inadequate ticket machines on the ftr?"

The Executive Member replied:

"First have already acknowledged the problems regarding the ticket machines. They are introducing more customer hosts

board while they decide what steps to take in the longer term.”

(ix) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Simpson-Laing:

“Can the Executive Member inform Members when the Council plans to draw up planning guidelines to stop or reduce the sub-division of family and terraced houses?”

The Executive Member replied:

“The issue of the conversion of terraces houses and other properties into flats will be considered as part of the on going work on the Local Development Framework. More specifically it is proposed this will be considered as part of the production of the Development Control Development Plan Document. The inclusion of suitable policy approach within a development plan document will clearly have considerably more weight than a draft SPG.”

***(x) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Potter:**

“Can the Executive Member for City Strategy confirm how many existing residential streets have been adopted since 2003, and how many have been requested for adoption by residents?”

The Executive Member replied:

“Members will no doubt be aware that prior to 2003 there was no policy or budget funding to respond to the requests from residents who wished to have their roads adopted. We have therefore had to spend time in developing a policy and have only recently been in a position to write to residents seeking their views on a way forward.

Officers have so far written to residents in 12 roads outlining the policy and asking for expressions of interest. There is no street, so far, where a majority of residents have expressed interest in seeking adoption at the present time.”

*Note: Cllr Merrett declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the above question at this stage, as a resident of a private street, and left the room whilst the question was under discussion.

(xi) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Vassie:

“Would the Executive Member compare – in real terms – car parking charges, which are proposed to apply for the forthcoming year, with those approved by the previous administration? Would she detail the increase in car parking charges applied during the period 1999-2003

with those that have been made during the course of the present administration?"

The Executive Member replied:

"I am pleased to remind Council of the actual car park charges that have applied since 1999."

	99/00	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	4 year %	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	4 year %	
a) Visitor												
Short Stay - Castle	0.80	0.90	1.00	1.20	1.40	1.60	78%	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	25%
Short Stay - Other	0.70	0.80	0.90	1.10	1.30	1.50	88%	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	33%
Standard Stay	0.60	0.70	0.80	1.00	1.20	1.30	86%	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.30	0%
On Street	0.70	0.70	0.80	0.90	1.10	1.30	86%	1.40	1.40	1.40	1.40	8%
Foss Bank	0.60	0.70	0.80	1.00	1.20	1.20	71%	1.20	0.70	0.70	0.70	-42%
Evening hours) (14 hours)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	
b) Resident												
Short Stay - Castle	0.70	0.80	0.90	1.10	1.10	1.30	63%	1.70	1.70	1.70	1.70	31%
Short Stay - Other	0.60	0.70	0.80	1.00	1.00	1.20	71%	1.70	1.70	1.70	1.70	42%
Standard Stay	0.50	0.60	0.70	0.90	0.90	1.00	67%	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0%
On Street	0.70	0.70	0.80	0.90	1.10	1.30	86%	1.40	1.40	1.40	1.40	8%
Foss Bank	0.50	0.60	0.70	0.90	0.90	0.90	50%	0.90	0.70	0.70	0.70	-22%
Evening hours) (14 hours)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	

"This demonstrates that the present administration has – contrary to some claims – reduced in real terms the vast majority of car parking charges in the City centre during its term of office. This contrasts with the draconian increases implemented by our predecessors.

York's standard say car parks are now cheaper than in many other neighbouring towns and comparable Cities:"

	Ave cost per hour	York resident pays per hour	York cheaper by	
Cambridge.	£1.45	£1.00	31%	80p (just one car park) £1.40/£1.50 an hour - more on Saturdays and higher charges for stays of longer than 5 hours.
Leeds.	£1.35	£1.00	26%	£1.20 - £1.50 an hour up to 22.00
Sheffield.	£1.15	£1.00	13%	95p/£1.15/£1.35 an hour up to 20.30. On street starts at 45p for 20 mins.
Harrogate.	£1.05	£1.00	5%	90p - £1.20 an hour. Evening charge £1.00

[Supplementary – written response promised]

(xii) **To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Vassie:**

“Would the Executive Member compare the investment made by the present Council in highways maintenance with that of the previous administration?”

The Executive Member replied:

	2001- 2002	2002- 2003	2003- 2004	4 year total	2004 - 2005	2005 - 2006	2006 - 2007	2007- 2008	4 year total	% increase	
1999/00 £K	5,156	6,003	6,764	7,008	24,932	7,790	8,358	8,320	8,100	32,569	+31%

“We were able to increase investment in highways maintenance in our first 2 budgets, despite the poor Government settlement, above the rate of inflation. For the current year we have held steady but the savings made on the new highway maintenance tender has allowed us to do extra work this year.

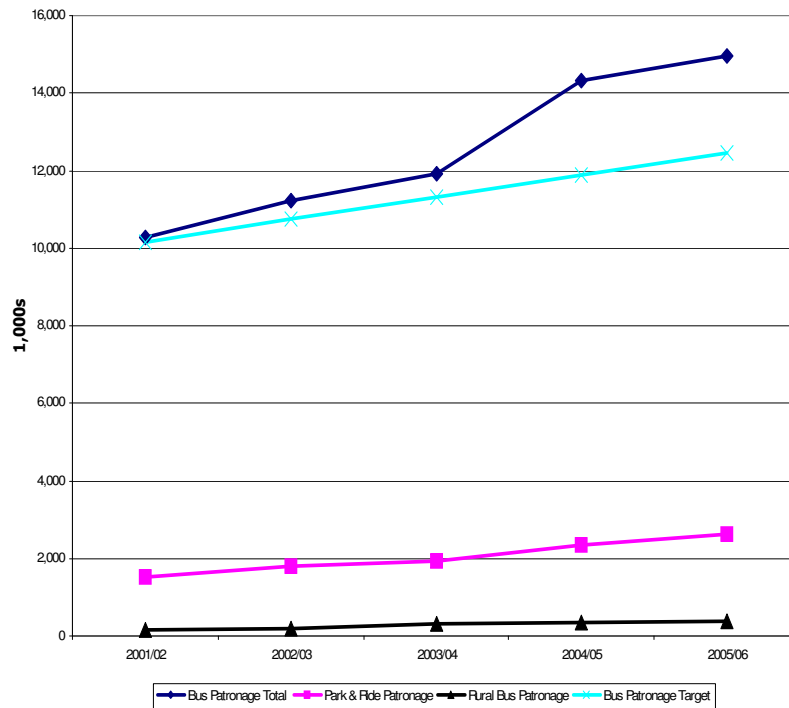
There has been an improvement to the overall condition of the highway. The backlog to bring all grade 3 highways up to grade 1 now stands at £27.625m a decrease of just under £2m. The proposed budget for 07/08 shows a small decrease in the allocation but this saving is more than offset by the savings on the highways maintenance tender and we will be carrying out more work for less money in 07/08. Roads and footpaths are now in a better condition overall than when we formed our administration in 2003. Success with the PFI bid would allow us to become a world leader in terms of transport infrastructure quality.”

[Supplementary – written response promised]

(xiii) **To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Vassie:**

“Would the Executive Member detail the increase in the use of public transport in the City achieved over the last 4 years?”

The Executive Member replied:



Year	2002/03 ,000s	2003/04 ,000s	2004/05 ,000s	2005/06 ,000s	% Increase since 02/03
Park and Ride Patronage	1,799	1,926	2,349	2,626	46%
Rural Bus Patronage	177	301	339	375	112%
Local Bus Service Patronage	9,265	9,696	11,651	11,954	29%
Bus Patronage Total	11,241	11,923	14,339	14,955	33%

“Bus patronage has grown by 45% in five years and Members will see the significant rise in 2003/04 from 12 million to 14.5 million bus passengers per year and we exceeded our LTP 1 target at the end of 2005/06 by over 2.5 million passengers a year. Park and Ride figures show a steady increase but I am delighted that, for the first time we have carried 3 million passengers in the last year keeping an estimated 1.3 million cars out of the city.”

(xiv) To the Executive Member for Adult Social Services, from Cllr Greenwood:

“Would the Executive Member say how long social services clients are waiting in York for care services to be allocated and contrast this with the performance in previous years and with other authorities?”

The Executive Member replied:

“The maximum length of time that a customer should wait for the provision of services, once an assessment has been made, is

laid down by government and is measured at less than or equal to 4 weeks.

The most recent set of figures for 2005/06 shows that York was similar to the average for Unitary Authorities at 85% of assessments completed within the timescale.

However, the latest set of figures shows that at the end of December York was achieving 87.20%.

The table below compares York with other authorities in England, Unitary Authorities and authorities in The Yorkshire and Humber Region.”

Year	York Figure [%]	Other Local Authority Averages [%]		
		England	Unitary	Yorkshire & Humber
2005/2006	85	87	85	88
2004/2005	85	84	81	85
2003/2004	82	81	81	85

[Note: In the absence of Cllr Sunderland, this question was answered by Cllr Sue Galloway]

- (xv) **To the Executive Member for Housing, from Cllr Hill:**
“Has the City of York Council Housing department lost the confidence of its tenants?”

In the absence of Cllr Sunderland, the Executive Member for Housing, Cllr Sue Galloway replied:

“No.”

- (xvi) **To the Executive Member for Leisure & Culture, from Cllr Lancelott:**

“Would the Executive Member please confirm how much the Council will receive from the sale of the lease of the Barbican auditorium to Absolute Leisure compared to the offer received, and supported by, the Council’s Executive in 2002?”

The Executive Member replied:

“The offer figure from Absolute Leisure has always been £750,000. This has never changed at any point in the negotiations although they have agreed to pay an additional £15k for the fittings and equipment. In addition they are completely refurbishing the auditorium at a cost estimated to be in excess of £2 million.”

- (xvii) **To the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, from Cllr D’Agorne:**

“When will a report be brought forward setting out a timescale and strategy for offering waste recycling collections from apartments and similar developments within the City?”

The Executive Member replied:

“The key issue of when box based kerbside collections for recycling can be rolled out to the 15,000 York properties is that of availability of resources. Estimates are that in order to achieve this we would need in the region of £330,000 to fund this roll out, for which we estimate that less than 10% of this could be recouped from reductions in landfill waste from these areas.

Therefore there is a review of the waste strategy currently being undertaken by officers. The result of this work will be a revised waste strategy for York whilst issues such as the rollout of recycling to all areas will be included along with options to improve the current delivery arrangements for refuse and recycling collections. It is thought that a draft report will be ready by the early part of the summer and members will be consulted. This work will also need to consider the outcome of the Lyons Review which will impact on local authority spending, and it should be noted that York receives just 25% of its landfill tax back in revenue support for the recycling service, this year amount to just £400,000 from the £1.6 million sent to central government.

I would urge Cllr D’Agorne to join with me in calling for central government to give a greater return of York’s Landfill tax payments, in order that even more recycling services can be operated in the city.”

(xviii) To the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, from Cllr D’Agorne:

“How many days do you consider is reasonable time to elapse following the end of a period of flooding before the riverside cycle / footpaths to the south of the City are cleared of mud?”

The Executive Member replied:

“Council staff have been working extremely hard throughout the recent periods of flooding to clear footpaths of mud. The sequence for removal is for Kings Staith to be cleared to Tower Gardens followed by Almerly Terrace, Clementhorpe, Skeldergate and Rowntree Park.

We normally begin work the same day, as soon as the car park and Staithes are clear of water.

Under the normal sequence, full clearance takes between a week and 10 days, but this can be delayed due to repeat flooding by the river before the clearance has been complete.

Following the recent flood alert, New Walk was cleared on the evening of 23rd January 07. The last “All Clear” flood situation for area 135801 (Kings Staith, Queens Staith, South Esplanade and New Walk) has been given by the Environment Agency at 14:49 on 23rd January 07.”

(xix) To the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, from Cllr D’Agorne:

“When do you expect the leaves / detritus from 2006 might be removed from City paths, verges and gutters?”

The Executive Member replied:

“The fall of leaves from trees in the city was later than normal last year due to the unusually warm weather conditions experienced. The Council has had two dedicated manual teams and two large mechanical sweepers working to remove leaves and to date 423 tonnes have been collected in total.

If there are areas where leaves are still on the ground members are asked to contact the YPAL action line and we will deal with this promptly.

Members are aware that a new street cleaning service is being piloted in the west area of the city and so far we have seen a 5% improvement in the condition of street and open spaces which is encouraging as this is the most difficult time of the year to maintain these areas. It is hoped that the new street cleaning service will be rolled out to all areas of the city by the early part of the spring 2007 which will have a further positive impact on the cleanliness of our city.

During the last few weeks with the high winds there have been a small number of calls to remove leaves which have been blown from sheltered areas not on the highway.”

SCRUTINY - REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF SMC

53. A written report was received from Cllr Kirk, the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC) on the work of the SMC since the last report to Council, on 30 November 2006.

ACTIVITIES OF OUTSIDE BODIES

54. Minutes of the following meetings of Outside Bodies were considered:
- Association of North Yorkshire Councils (minutes of meeting on 13 November 2006)
 - North Yorkshire Police Authority (minutes of meeting on 6 November 2006).

These minutes had been made available to Members to view on the Council's website. The Lord Mayor invited comments and questions, firstly from Council representatives on those bodies, either in relation to the body generally or specifically on the minutes, and secondly from Members generally. No comments or questions were forthcoming.

APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP

55. RESOLVED: That the appointments to Committees, Outside Bodies and Working Groups set out in the list at page 43 of the Council papers (and attached as Annex 1 to these minutes) be approved.

Councillor Janet Hopton
LORD MAYOR OF YORK

[The meeting started at 6.30 pm and concluded at 9.40 pm]